SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Sonic Conversion"
(238-301)

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - NIGHT

Barely visible behind CLOUDS of smoke, BACK-LIT by industrial burn-off stacks. A SWAT-BOT PATROL VEHICLE zips THROUGH SHOT as we PAN DOWN TO GROUND far below. Through the haze, we see two hovering SWAT-BOTS chasing SONIC. He ZIGS and ZAGS as they fire LASER BLASTS.

ON STREET - AT CORNER OF METAL BUILDING

Sonic rips INTO SHOT, SCREECHES to a stop, leaving twin SKID MARKS on the street. He looks back, REACTS, then ZIPS to one side as laser fire blasts the wall where he was just standing.

SONIC
Yo-o ho-ho! Mondo rude, Swat-Butts.

He looks up.

SONIC'S POV

Swat-Bots streak toward us, firing as they come.

SONIC

does a little dance as he dodges some more.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Why don't you clowns get a life.

WIDE - SONIC AND THE SWAT-BOTS

Sonic REVS UP, leans back, and with his legs a churning blur, takes off and rockets around a corner just ahead of the Swat-Bots.

DOWN THE STREET

The Swat-Bots glide to a stop, feet lowering like landing gear. They look around, but no sign of Sonic. He's gone. We hear a series of STRANGE ELECTRICAL SOUNDS from the Swat-Bots, then they rise and sweep OUT OF SHOT, feet retracting as they go. CAMERA TILTS UP TO REVEAL SONIC lounging atop a flag-pole, legs crossed, checking his nails. He looks down, waves.

SONIC
Ta-ta, motorheads.

Sonic jumps up, then streaks straight down the pole as we...

FLIP TO:

EXT. JUNK HEAPS - NIGHT

A huge place. Mountains of junked electronic components, trashed futuristic machinery, derelict flying craft and hover units. Some of the trash mountains rise high enough to draw snow. Dark except for a greenish glow from the scattered security lights. Ominous feel about the place. As CAMERA PANS past all this junk, a RAT skitters past in the F.G. and CAMERA STOPS on SALLY, working hard at the access panel of a junked space craft at the bottom of one of those junk mountains.

SALLY

uses a finger-laser to cut through a maze of wires surrounding a GLOWING COMPONENT. She's nervous, keeps glancing over her shoulder. We hear SONIC'S TRADEMARK WHOOSH as he approaches and SKIDS INTO SHOT. They speak in WHISPERS:

SALLY
Did you get it?

SONIC
Is grass green? Do cows moo?
Are hedgehogs way, way, way
beyond cool?

He whips out a large pizza.

SONIC
Pepperoni with the works.

She looks at him in disbelief.

SALLY
Pizza? You got a pizza?
Sonic... what about the
transmodulator?

SONIC
Trans-what-a-lator?

SALLY
(as if to a child)
Trans-mod-ulator.

SONIC
Oh. You mean this do-hickey.

He whips out an electronic component. Big grin.

SONIC
Little joke there.

She grabs it.

SALLY
Little is right.

SONIC
Last chance for a pizza. Going once, going twice...

She rolls her eyes, goes back to the wires. Sonic inhales the entire pizza, CHEWS loudly.

SONIC
(mouth full)
Going, going...
(he swallows)
...gone!
(he BURPS)
But not forgotten.

Sally stops, glares at him.

SALLY
This is delicate work. Do you mind?

SONIC
Not usually.

SALLY
Sonic!

SONIC
Okay. Okay.

SALLY

goes back to work. Sonic watches for a moment, then one foot TAPS. Then the other. Then he taps his fingers on the ship's hull. He looks at his watch, scratches his head.

SALLY
Sonic!

SONIC
Okay, okay.

SALLY
If I snip the wrong wire, it's over.

THE WIRES

Sally's wire cutters pause over one wire. She snips and the component falls neatly into her hand.

SALLY (CONT'D)
That's it.

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic looks at the component, wrinkles his nose.

SONIC
All that for this little piece of junk?

SALLY

puts the component in Sonic's backpack, then gets nose-to-nose with him. She's pissed.

SALLY
For your information, Mr. Mess-everything-up-because-he-has-no-patience, that 'little piece of junk' is...

SONIC
(interrupts)
That's the part for the de-roboticizer?

SALLY
I wonder what it's like to actually finish a sentence. Yes, that's the part.

SONIC
All right. Past cool.

WIDER

Suddenly, CAMERA SHAKES as we hear a HUGE JET ROAR that knocks them to the ground. The mountain of junk CREAKS above them.

SONIC
Man! What was that?

SALLY
Some kind of nuclear power.

SONIC
The Prince of Darkness must have a new war toy. Let's scope it out.

Sally shakes her head.

SALLY
Sonic, no. We can't risk losing these components.

SONIC
What good'll they do us if Robuttnik's cooked up some new killer machine?

SALLY
We are not 'scoping' it out. Period.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - AIR VENT - NIGHT

Sonic and Sally hurry along as another JET ROAR, much LOUDER, RATTLES the air vent.

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON MONITOR where a wicked-looking, needle-nosed aircraft with short, swept-back wings sets in a hangar, JETS BLASTING. We hear them in DISTANCE as...

SNIVELY (OS)
Sir, your virtual reality Shriek-Bot...

NEW ANGLE - TO INCLUDE CONSOLE WITH MONITORS AND SNIVELY

On other monitors are various surveillance shots of the city. Snively stands at the console.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)
...is ready for flight testing.
(mumbles to self)
You oversized toad.

CAMERA WHIP-PANS TO ROBOTNIK

sitting in JET FIGHTER CONSOLE. A VIRTUAL REALITY HOOD lowers over his head as he looks up at Snively.

ROBOTNIK
What was that, Snively?

SNIVELY

flashes a sincere smile as the virtual reality hood covers Robotnik's head.

SNIVELY
I said, you'll like the
oversized hood, Sir.

Robotnik nods, nearly smiles.

ROBOTNIK
I'm excited by the prospects,
Snively. Very excited.

SNIVELY
And I'm excited for you, sir.

He turns away and makes a sour face as we...

CUT TO :

INT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - GROUND LEVEL HANGAR - NIGHT

THE SHRIEK-BOT VIBRATES from the thrust of the DEAFENING JET BLAST which is directed out the open hangar door. Strapped to hangar floor, it has TWO HUGE JET ENGINES mounted on the tail, a "Alien"-like network of pipes running along its sides and a large dish antenna mounted on top.

WIDER

Behind a large, curved, transparent BLAST SHIELD, WORKER BOTS adust banks of test equipment. HOVERING SWAT-BOTS stand guard. The JET BLAST changes colors from blue to orange to red, to a combination of all colors. CAMERA PANS TO WALL where Sonic and Sally hop out of AIR SYSTEM VENT. CAMERA FOLLOWS as they dash behind a nearby pile of equipment.

OTS SONIC AND SALLY - SHRIEK-BOT IN B.G.

Sonic and Sally stare at the Shriek-Bot in awe.

SALLY
I hate to admit it, Sonic, but you were right.

SONIC
I can't help it. I was born right.
(pause)
Sal, what are those serious pipes behind the wings?

THEIR POV

within the "Alien"-type nest of pipes, TWIN PIPES protrude straight back from the fuselage. It TEST FIRES with a ROAR.

SALLY (OS)
(shouts over roar)
Side thrusters. That plane may be able to outmaneuver even you, Sonic.

SONIC

looks at her with great indignance.

SONIC
Outmaneuver Mois? The hip-hoppin' Hedgehog? I don't think so. Watch this.

He starts to move, but Sally restrains him.

SALLY
Not now. We have to get back to Knothole.

He looks at her, knows she's right and nods.

SONIC
Yeah, you're right, Sal. Let's...
(he reacts to something OS)
Sal! Check it out.

Sally follows his point and CAMERA WHIP-PANS TO FAR SIDE OF HANGAR where UNCLE CHUCK pushes cart loaded with electronic test equipment.

SALLY (OS)
Omigosh! Uncle Chuck!

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - NIGHT

The semi-transparent VIRTUAL REALITY HOOD covers Robotnik's entire upper body. A JOYSTICK rises from the arm of the console. Robotnik grabs it as MULTI-COLORED LIGHTS flash past in a pattern over the hood.

SNIVELY (OS)
Sir! Monitor one.

FAVORING SNIVELY - TO INCLUDE MONITOR

ON THE MONITOR, Sonic and Sally peer out from their hiding place, then creep toward Uncle Chuck.

ROBOTNIK
Well, surprise, surprise.

ON ROBOTNIK - TO INCLUDE "HEADS UP DISPLAY"

As Robotnik speaks, a panel GLOWS, matching his words.

ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
Activate laser cannon power.

CUT TO:

INT. HANGAR - NIGHT

Sonic and Sally creep toward Uncle Chuck and the Shriek-Bot. As they close, A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF ROBOTNIK "FADES IN" inside the Shriek-Bot's cockpit. Robotnik's IMAGE turns to watch Sonic and Sally. He grins. They don't see him.

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON ROBOTNIK'S TRANSPARENT HAND as it flicks a row of switches.

ROBOTNIK (OS)
Sweet dreams, rodent.

INT. HANGAR - NIGHT

ANGLE FROM BEHIND SHRIEK-BOT, ROBOTNIK'S IMAGE VISIBLE IN COCKPIT. SONIC AND SALLY IN B.G. RACK FOCUS TO SHRIEK-BOT nose as 2 LASER CANNONS rise from smooth surface and swivel to point at Sonic and Sally. RACK FOCUS TO SONIC as he notices and freezes in mid-step.

SONIC
Uh-oh.

He yanks Sally to one side just as the LASER CANNONS BLAST, missing them, but "smoking" the vent.

SONIC
(shouts over jet blast)
Hedgehog haunch time!

Sonic "REVS UP," Sally grabs him and they blow out of the there in a SCREECH of sneaker rubber and JET WHINE as...

THE SHRIEK-BOT

pivots until the nose points to open hangar door and the JET ROAR INCREASES in volume as the METAL STRAPS retract, releasing the thundering Shriek-Bot.

EXT. HANGAR - NIGHT

As the Shriek-Bot blasts out of the hangar, Robotnik's TRANSPARENT IMAGE STILL VISIBLE INSIDE. It rockets after Sonic and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTROPOLIS STREET - NIGHT

Sonic and Sally streak TOWARD CAMERA and flash by in a speed-blur. A BEAT, then CAMERA SHAKE as the SHRIEK-BOT approaches, leaving a GLOWING CHEMICAL TRAIL in mid-air. PAN TO FOLLOW as it passes, gaining on Sonic.

ON SONIC AND SALLY

CAMERA RAPIDLY TRUCKING BACKWARD, PACING SONIC. Shriek-Bot coming fast. Suddenly, Sonic banks a hard LEFT, Sally hanging on for dear life.

INSIDE COCKPIT

ROBOTNIK'S TRANSPARENT IMAGE grins wickedly.

ROBOTNIK
Activate afterburners.

TILT DOWN TO ROBOTNIK'S TRANSPARENT HAND as he pushes a button. TEN RED LIGHTS appear, then the first on blinks out, then the second and we hear ASCENDING TURBINE SOUND.

SONIC AND SALLY - MOVING

Sonic looks back over his shoulder.

SONIC'S POV - MOVING

As the Shriek-Bot hurtles closer.

SONIC (OS)
Man! That sucker cranks serious.

SONIC AND SALLY - MOVING

Sally pulls a Power Ring from Sonic's backpack, slaps it into his palm. BIG EFFECTS GLOW around the Hedgehog's hand.

FROM BEHIND AND ABOVE SHRIEK-BOT

As it unleashes laser blasts at Sonic and Sally, while the SHIMMERING GLOW encompasses Sonic and the Ring kicks in. DOUBLE SONIC BOOM SHAKES THE SCREEN as they streak away from...

THE SHRIEK-BOT

which waffles in their turbulence and clips a protruding wall of a building, knocking pieces off the airplane. It wobbles, but somehow remains airborne. It turns and heads home as...

SONIC AND SALLY

disappear into the murky city haze like a comet, and we...

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - MONITOR SCREEN - NIGHT

As the Shriek-Bot limps into the hangar. PULL OUT AND PAN TO SNIVELY AND ROBOTNIK as the VIRTUAL REALITY HOOD retracts accompanied by ELECTRONIC HUMMING. Robotnik leaps to his feet and grabs Snively by his shirt front, lifting him up close to his face. He smiles at the sweating Snively.

ROBOTNIK
(low; calm)
You lied to me, Snively.
(he shakes him, voice rising slightly)
You said the Shriek-Bot would catch the Hedgehog.

SNIVELY
It can, Sir. Honest. We just have to install another afterburner.

ROBOTNIK

opens his mouth wide enough to engulf Snively's head, which disappears.

ROBOTNIK
Can you see my heart, Snively?

SNIVELY (O.S.)
(reverbed)
Yes, Sir.

ROBOTNIK
What color is it?

SNIVELY (O.S.)
Black, Sir.

Robotnik pulls Snively back into view.

ROBOTNIK
What does that tell you?

SNIVELY
I'll get right to work, Sir.

Robotnik drops Snively, flops back into his command chair.

ROBOTNIK
Do that.

CUT TO:

EXT. RENDEZVOUS POINT - OUTSKIRTS OF ROBOTROPOLIS - NIGHT

PANNING skeletal building remains, piles of rubble and slimy pools of steaming muck where small CREATURES writhe.

ANTOINE (O.S.)
Oh, I am thinking something terrible has happening, Dulcy...

FINISH PAN ON ANTOINE AND DULCY. They glance fearfully around. Antoine paces. Dulcy's mongo tail sweeps back and forth. One of the pool creatures sticks its head up just as her tail passes and is knocked o.s., emmitting a tiny SCREAM. They don't notice.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
I am feeling eet in my stones.

DULCY
Not stones, Tony, bones.

ANTOINE
Yes, I am feeling eet there, too.

They turn as we hear SONIC'S SIGNATURE APPROACH.

WIDE

As Sonic and Sally streak INTO SHOT and SCREECH to a stop. Antoine immediately grabs Sally's hand and kisses it repeatedly.

ANTOINE
Oh, my princess, I am worrying sick about you.

SALLY
I am fine, Antoine. We got the parts.

DULCY
Good go-wan, Sally.

Sonic notices something O.S.

SONIC'S POV

Hover-Units headed straight AT CAMERA.

SONIC (OS)
Bot-butts comin'!

WIDE

Sally and Antoine scramble atop Dulcy's back.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Launch, Dulcy! I'll keep 'em busy. Meet you in Knothole.

SONIC REVS UP and ROARS OUT, leaning back in a 90 degree "wheelie," while...

DULCY

starts to run in an awkward gait, trips and falls on her face.

DULCY
(big GRUNT as she hits)

SONIC

ROARS down the street toward three approaching Hover-Units, then makes a hart left onto a side street. One Unit banks off after him, the other two go after...

DULCY

as she stumbles into the air, wings flapping furiously. She skims the top of some low buildings. Antoine has his hands over his eyes. Sally looks over her shoulder to see...

THE HOVER-UNITS

coming after them, lasers BLASTING..

DULCY

banks sharply to avoid the fire.

ANTOINE
(frightened scream)
Ahhhhh!

SALLY
Dulcy! Smoke screen!

Dulcy opens her mouth and with a giant BURP, she exhales a huge cloud of smoke.

DULCY
(hairy BELCH)

WIDEN as the smoke billows out, enveloping the Hover-Units. From within the smoke, we hear a huge CRASH, see the Hover-Units fall below the cloud and CRASH into the ground.

AERIAL SHOT - LOOKING DOWN

Robotnik's HQ in extreme B.G. as Dulcy banks away from Robotropolis.

SALLY & ANTOINE
Way to go, Dulcy! Se magnifique!

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - CLEARING - DAWN

ROTOR works at a large, elaborate machine. (NOTE: it resembles Robotnik's Robotisizer in complexity, but LOOKS HOMEMADE, i.e. wood supports, rope-wrapped poles holding up electronic equipment, etc.) BUNNIE paces nervously. Nicole sets on an upright log nearby, a computer-generated HOLOGRAM of numbers rapidly sequencing above her.

NICOLE
Sequencing final test, Rotor.

Rotor SCRATCHES his head.

ROTOR
Ho, boy, hope I got the polarity right.
(pause)
Activate, Nicole.

NICOLE
Activating.

Lights blaink on the De-Robotisizer, then a LOUD ELECTRONIC HUM is heard and Bunnie is suddenly ELECTRIFIED, then whisked right off her feet and sails O.S.

BUNNIE
(startled "electrified" CRY)

A loud metallic CLANK from O.S. as CAMERA WHIP-PANS TO ROBOTICIZER where Bunnie's robotic arm and legs are clamped to one of the metal parts of the De-Robotisizer. All her fur is FRIZZED, her ears stand straight out to the sides and she's upside down.

BUNNIE
Oh, this is just hunky-dory, Rotor. I feel much better.

TAILS runs INTO SHOT, SKIDS to a stop.

TAILS
(giggles)
Aunt Bunnie, can we do my hair like that?

BUNNIE
Shore, honey-bun, but let's wait 'til Halloween.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOOKOUT TREE - DAY

A single tree towers above the other trees in Knothole. Near the top is the lookout post. A scraggly-looking WOLF who we'll call WOLFGANG scans the horizon through binoculars. Flies BUZZ around his head. To one side is a small bell. He suddenly sets the binoculars down, goes into a wild SCRATCHING frenze, then picks up the binoculars again.

POV THROUGH BINOCULARS

of Dulcy approaching for a landing.

WOLFGANG (OS)
Oh, man. Code Red.

WOLFGANG

RINGS THE BELL repeatedly as...

DULCY

approaches the Knothole treeline, Antoine trembling, eyes big. In the distance, the BELL RINGS.

ANTOINE
Ohh, I am hating this part more than anything in my en-ti-re life.

Dulcy suddenly dives at a steep angle. Antoine throws his arms around Sally and...

ANTOINE
(SCREAMS)

They dive O.S.

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEADOW - DAY

Bell continues to RING as a small group of FREEDOM FIGHTERS converge on the meadow. They're like the FLIGHT DECK CREW on an aircraft carrier with a crippled airplane coming in. Each has a job to do. A BEAR with directional paddles runs out in the middle of the meadow as...

DULCY

comes gliding through the trees, wings wagging as she approaches.

ANTOINE
(still YELLING)

DULCY'S POV

of the Bear frantically waving his paddles, trying to guide her in as...

TWO OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTERS

pull handles that spring the arresting ropes strung across the meadow into upright position.

DULCY'S POV

closing fast on the Paddle Bear, who tosses the paddles and runs for his life as...

WIDER - FROM ABOVE

Dulcy descends toward the arresting ropes with a HAYSTACK behind. Her wings still wagging her horizontal axis veering left and right.

SONIC/SALLY/ANTOINE
Easy, Dulcy! Straighten out!

DULCY

hits the ground running, trips over her big feet and lands on her chin, then SKIDS across the meadow, digging a furrough as she goes.

DULCY'S POV

closing fast on the ropes.

ANOTINE (OS)
(SCREAMING)

HIGH ANGLE

Dulcy SNAPS the first rope, then the second and the third. BIM, BAM, BOOM -- and SKIDS OUT OF CONTROL toward a tree when from out of nowher comes Sonic, moving like a shot. He grabs Dulcy's tail and SLAMS on the brakes and...

DULCY

slows radically, but not quite enough. She hits the tree and sends Antoine flying off and O.S. Sally manages to hang on. Lot of CRASHING SOUNDS as Antoine sails into the forest, then QUIET.

SALLY
(calls)
Antoine, are you all right?

ANTOINE (OS)
(calls back)
I think I am hurting my boom-boom.

FLIP TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - DAWN

A small flock of birds flies overhead. TILT DOWN to the De-Roboticizer. Sally stands near the control console. Sonic, Rotor, Tails, Dulcy and Antoine watch as Bunnie steps into the De-Roboticizer.

CLOSER - TO INCLUDE SALLY AND BUNNIE

Bunnie's fur and ears are still FRIZZED.

SALLY
Ready, Bunnie?

BUNNIE
I'm ready, but I can't speak for my hair.

OTHERS (OS)
(ad lib)
Good luck, Bunnie!\Hang in!\It'll work!\Go for it!

SALLY
Here we go.
(pauses)
Activate De-Roboticizing sequence.

NICOLE
Activating, Sally.

ON BUNNIE

As a CLEAR TUBE LOWERS over her accompanied by ELECTRONIC HUM. She waves and smiles weakly.

SONIC

crosses his fingers behind his back. Tails notices and does the same.

SONIC
This is it, guys!

TAILS
Yeah. This is it.

ON DE-ROBOTISIZER

The HUMMING grows louder and the entire tube takes on a yellow PULSATING GLOW. A FAST PACED LIGHT SHOW follows as the HUM becomes a TURBINE WHINE. SPARKS AND SMOKE shoot out of the machine.

ON SONIC AND TAILS

Tails anxiously looks up at Sonic.

TAILS
Is...is it 'sposed to do that?

SONIC
I hope so, Big Guy.

NICOLE (O.S.)
Sequence complete, Sally.

ON DE-ROBOTISIZER

As the smoke clears and we see Bunnie -- slumped down in the tube.

ALL
(gasp in horror)

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - CLEARING - DAWN

Bunnie stares unblinking from inside De-Robotisizer as the tube retracts.

THE OTHERS

all stare. Bunnie is completely DE-ROBOTISIZED. Her hair's back to normal.

SALLY
Bunnie?

BUNNIE'S

eyes flutter. She looks around.

BUNNIE'S POV

of the others all staring at her. Sonic leans in.

SONIC
You cool, Bunnie?

WIDER

As Bunnie feels her hair and ears.

BUNNIE
I...I think so. How's my hair?

SONIC
Forget the hair, check out the bod.

Bunnie looks down at her body and GASPS.

BUNNIE
Oh my stars!
(throws fist in air)
Yesss! The Bunnie is back!

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - RING GROTTO - DAY

Sonic anxiously paces as Tails stands at the edge of the rocky edge, WINDING UP HIS TAILS. The water begins to BUBBLE and GLOW, then BRIGHTENS as a POWER RING approaches the surface. The GLOW grows brighter and lights up Sonic and Tails' faces.

TAILS
Here comes one, Sonic!

The Ring pops into the air.

SONIC
Better juice, Big Guy.

Tails releases his tails and shoots off the edge. He grabs the Ring in one hand, then circles back and lands next to Sonic.

TAILS
Past cool, huh, Sonic?

They high-five.

SONIC
Way past.
(pause)
Okay, bud, slide it in the ol'
pack and I'm outta here.

Tails pops the still-glowin Ring in Sonic's pack and the Hedgehog REVS UP, ready to bail. Sally RUNS INTO SHOT and grabs his arm.

SALLY
Sonic, wait!

SONIC
Save it, Sal. I'm goin' after
Uncle Chuck.

SALLY
But we don't know if the De-
Roboticizer effects will last.
Can't you just wait 24 hours?

SONIC
Hey, if it doesn't work, we'll
just work on it till it does!

SALLY
Fine. And what do we do with
Uncle Chuck while we're working
on it?

Sonic folds arms across his chest, TAPS his foot.

SONIC
Why do you ask so many questions?

SALLY
Why don't you use your brain?

SONIC
It gives me a headache!

Sonic VAR-R-ROOMS O.S. leaving one ticked-off Sally in his wake. She stomps her foot.

SALLY
(frustrated)
Oooooh!

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - HANGAR - DAY

Through open hangar doorway, we see the Shriek-Bot. TWO HUGE POWER THRUSTERS are being lowered into place by a crane. Snively stands nearby, clipboard in hand.

SNIVELY
Be careful there, you stupid Bots!

INT. HANGAR - DAY

CLOSE ON SHRIEK-BOT TAIL SECTION as we see the POWER THRUSTERS (one above, one below) lock into place, still held by mechanical "claws". A PNEUMATIC DRILL, held by a ROBOTISIZED HAND ENTERS SHOT and drives a bolt home on lower engine assembly.

WIDEN TO REVEAL it's Uncle Chuck. His eyes GLOW RED as he moves to the next bolt-hole.

FAVORING SNIVELY - TO INCLUDE SHRIEK-BOT

Two more Worker-Bots make adjustments on the POWER THRUSTERS while Snively scans his clipboard, marking off a checklist, then he turns and walks O.S. CAMERA WHIP-PANS TO AIR-SYSTEM VENT as Sonic emerges and zips behind some huge engine CRATES. He peeks over the top.

SONIC'S POV

of Uncle Chuck. CAMERA PANS TO FOLLOW pneumatic air HOSE past another stack of crates to air compressor attached to wall.

SONIC

crawls behind crates in front of the air compressor, lays his backpack on the floor, grabs the air hose and crimps it, as...

UNCLE CHUCK

squeezes the trigger on the pneumatic drill. Nothing happens. He shakes the cord, then CAMERA FOLLOWS as he moves toward air compressor. As he passes the crates, Sonic grabs him and yanks him o.s.

SONIC AND UNCLE CHUCK

struggle behind the crates. Sonic tries to pin him, but Uncle Chuck is too strong. Sonic is about to be thrown off, when he grabs his backpack and pulls it over...

UNCLE CHUCK'S HAND

and his arm starts to GLOW as...

SONIC

looks on. The RED GLOW fades from Uncle Chuck's eyes. He shakes his head, then turns to Sonic with a blank stare.

SONIC
Uncle Chuck? You in there?

ZOOM TO Uncle Chuck as he smiles.

UNCLE CHUCK
Hey, Sonny-boy!

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ROTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

CLOSE ON Uncle Chuck as the De-Robotisizer tube lowers over him. WIDEN to see Sonic, Sally, Rotor, Tails, Dulcy and Bunnie gathered around. Sonic has the fingers on both hands crossed. So does Tails.

SALLY
Nicole, activate De-Robotisizer sequence.

Uncle Chuck flashes them the "thumbs up" sign.

NICOLE
Activating, Sally.

The same EFX process we saw earlier with Bunnie begins, then suddenly shifts as we hear SICKLY ELECTRONIC SOUNDS. SMOKE billows from one of the electronic panels. An ALARM SOUNDS.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Hardware circuitry malfunction.
Executing pre-emptive shutdown.

Sally quickly activates a control as the tube rises out of the billowing smoke and...

SONIC

rushes forward, concerned.

SONIC
Uncle Chuck?

UNCLE CHUCK (OS)
(mechanical-sounding GROWL)

Uncle Chuck, now FULLY-ROBOTISIZED, eyes GLOWING RED, emerges from the smoke. ZOOM TO CHUCK as he...

UNCLE CHUCK
(loud robotic ROARS)

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ROTOR'S WORKSHOP - LATER

MATCH SHOT Uncle Chuck's face peeing out from behind bars. PULL BACK to show he's in a heavy-barred metal cage. Sonic looks sadly into the cage. Chuck RATTLES the bars, shaking the cage.

UNCLE CHUCK
(loud robotic ROARS)

SONIC
Hang in, Uncle Chuck.
Everything's gonna be cool.

SALLY (OS)
Don't hold your breath, Sonic.

WIDER

to see Sally and Rotor working on the mangled De-Robotisizer nearby.

SONIC

zips in.

SONIC
Whaddaya mean, Sal? What's up?

SALLY
Nothing good.
(hold up Nicole)
Nicole, status report.

NICOLE
Section one failure. No salvageable components.

SONIC
Okay, so we need a couple parts. No biggie, right?

SALLY
Yes it is a "biggie."
(pause)
Nicole, search data banks for compatible component panels.

A HOLOGRAPHIC CONE appears, with a fast-shifting array of computer parts, computer language and symbols.

NICOLE
Searching.

We see various pieces of equipment flash by. Sonic's head moves back and forth as if he were watching a high-speed tennis match.

The HOLOGRAPHIC CONE freezes on one image: Robotnik's Robotisizer!

NICOLE
Match found, Sally.

SONIC
That's good, right?

SALLY

sadly shakes her head.

SALLY
That's good, wrong. The only match is Robotnik's Robotisizer.

SONIC
(deflating)
So, there's no way this is gonna happen, right?

CAMERA FOLLOWS as Sonic trudges to Uncle Chuck's cage. Sally follows.

SALLY
With time...maybe.

Sonic turns, back to camera, looks at Uncle Chuck.

UNCLE CHUCK
(loud GROWLS)

SONIC

whips back around, angry.

SONIC
No! I'm gonna make this right!

FAST ZOOM TO SONIC as his face fills with determination.

SONIC (CONT'D)
This Hedgehog is never givin' up!

FLIP TO:

EXT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - NIGHT - SONIC

looks dejected.

SONIC
I give up.

FAST PULL OUT TO REVEAL Sonic is flanked by four hovering Swat-Bots. He holds out his hands.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Take me to the Prince of Dorkness.

They grab his arms and we...

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Pinned on both sides by Swat-Bots holding his arms, Sonic stands before Robotnik's command chair. Robotnik leans toward Sonic with an evil smile. Behind Robotnik is the Robotisizer.

ROBOTNIK
Nice of you to drop by,
Hedgehog. I love surprises.
(smile fades; he leans
closer)
Now, what are you doing here?

SONIC
I can't take the stress, man.
I'm throwin' in the ol' towel.

ROBOTNIK

eyes Sonic carefully.

ROBOTNIK
I don't believe you. Something
smells in Cleveland.
(pause)
wherever that is.
(leans closer)
NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

SONIC

snaps his gaze away from the Robotisizer behind Robotnik and grins up at the big guy.

SONIC
Me? I'm up to about five-three.
(he LAUGHS)
Little joke there.

ROBOTNIK
Little is right.
(pause)
Put him in the Robotisizer/

The Guards start toward the machine.

SONIC
I don't thi-ink so.

SONIC

raises his feet in the air, CRANKS them up until they're a blur, hits the ground with a CHIRP of rubber and EXPLODES forward dragging the Bots with him. After a short distance, he SCREECHES to a halt and his momentum sends the Bots sailing OUT OF SHOT with a CRASH.

ROBOTNIK

leaps to his feet and tries to grab Sonic himself, but the Hedgehog kicks into high gear and knocks the big villain back into his command chair.

SONIC
Feel like a little spin, Robo-Butt?

Sonic grabs Robotnik's chair and accelerates, spinning it until it's a BLUR.

ROBOTNIK
(startled yell)

PAN TO FOLLOW as Sonic zips to the Robotisizer and rips the computer panel loose. He looks at the still-spinning Robotnik and holds up a CARD that reads 2.5.

SONIC
Mondo spin. Bad form. Gotta juice it loose, Bad Guy.

He streaks out the door.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON DE-ROBOTISIZER: BIG EFFECTS, LIGHTS and BILLOWING SMOKE. PULL BACK TO REVEAL the Freedom Fighters watching. All have their fingers crossed.

SALLY

monitors the controls. Sonic beside her, TAPS his foot, DRUMMING his fingers, checking his watch.

SONIC
Come on, Nicole. What's takin' so long?

NICOLE
Sequence complete, Sally.

The smoke clears. We see Uncle Chuck slumped over. HUMMING MACHINERY as tube retracts. Sonic leans INTO SHOT.

SONIC
Uncle Chuck? Wake up, man.

UNCLE CHUCK'S

eyes flutter and blink. NO RED GLOW. He looks at Sonic, then flashes "thumbs up".

UNCLE CHUCK
Yessss!

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - FARM - DAY

CLOSE ON BLUEPRINT of irrigation system. Uncle Chuck's HAND ENTERS SHOT, points at a line.

UNCLE CHUCK (OS)
Hmm, you're wastin' a lotta water here.

WIDER

to show Uncle Chuck, Antoine, Tails, Rotor and Sonic gathered around the blueprint spread out on a boulder. In the B.G., we see rows of various crops and windmills slowly turning. Piles of lumber and tools stacked around them.

UNCLE CHUCK (CONT'D)
What you need is a drip system.
(turns)
Rotor, do you have any number two pipe?

Rotor scratches his head, furrows his brow, looks at the sky.

ROTOR
Number two pipe? Well, I think so. Have to check my store room.

SONIC
I'll help, Rote. Hang on.

Rotor grabs Sonic's waist and they ROAR off. Tails tugs at Uncle Chuck's hand.

TAILS
Whaddya want me to do, Uncle Chuck?

UNCLE CHUCK
Well, I could sure use a sandwich.

TAILS
Back in a flash...Unc!

TAILS

QUICK-WINDS HIS TWIN-TAILS and flies O.S. Antoine starts to sneak off, when...

UNCLE CHUCK
Oh, Antoine...

Antoine freezes, turns with a cheezy smile.

ANTOINE
I am thinking maybe I should...

UNCLE CHUCK
...help me build the water tank.

ANTOINE

gets a panicky look on his face.

ANTOINE
Pardon, Uncle Chunk, but I am having peoples to be seeing and places I am to be going...

UNCLE CHUCK
Great! Here ya go! Take these boards with ya.

Uncle Chuck dumps a load of boards into Antoine's arms. He sags under them.

ANTOINE
(little straining SQUEAK)

He collapses under the weight.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - CLEARING - DAY

Sally Bunnie and Dulcy are at the De-Robotisizer. New support beams lay on the ground in a pile. As Sally inspects the circuitry, Bunnie absently bends to pick up a heavy beam.

BUNNIE
(straining sound)
Oh!

She quickly drops it and grabs her lower back.

BUNNIE (CONT)
My stars, I keep forgettin' I don't have all those metal muscles anymore.

Suddenly, there's a FLASH OF EFFECTS around Bunnie that knocks her right on her tail and frizzes out her ears again.

BUNNIE
(surprised yell)

SALLY
(concerned)
Bunnie?

DULCY
This is not lookin' good.

The EFFECTS CLEAR, revealing Bunnie is back to her old half-robot self.

DULCY (CONT'D)
Lookin' real baaad. This is a catastrophe. This is a...

SALLY
(interrupts)
Dulcy!

DULCY
Saw-reee, Sally.

BUNNIE
What the who-ha happened?
(sees metal arm/leg)
Oh, my stars! I'm...I'm...
(starts to cry)

SALLY

helps Bunnie to her feet and hugs her.

SALLY
It's okay, Bunnie... We'll get you back.

Sally quickly inspects the De-Robotisizer circuitry.

SALLY
That's it! The stabilizer circuit wasn't connected. Let's try it again.

BUNNIE
(tearful)
You sure it's gonna work, Sally-girl?

SALLY
Absolutely.

Bunnie steps into the De-Robotisizer and the tube slides down. Sally connects a wire, closes the access panel and steps back.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Activate, Nicole.

NICOLE
Sequencing, Sally.

In seconds, BLACK SMOKE pours out of the machine and we hear MACHINE DISTRESS - BOLTS RATTLING, ETC., then the De-Robotisizer EXPLODES! As the dust settles, we see Sally and Dulcy on the ground, shaking their heads. Bunnie, protected from the blast by the tube, steps out and rushes over them.

BUNNIE
Are y'all okay?

SALLY
Ohmygosh! Uncle Chuck.

Sally looks up, a horrified expression on her face, realizing...

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - FARM - DAY

Antoine begrudgingly holds a cross-plank in place overhead while Uncle Chuck hammers in a nail on a partially-constructed platform. Tails flies INTO SHOT carrying a huge, "Dagwood"-type sandwich, but he can't stop and slams into Antoine's butt, propelling him into the support beam and collapsing the platform.

ANTOINE
(startled YELL)

TAILS

just manages to keep the sandwich together and offers it to Uncle Chuck.

TAILS
Here ya go, Uncle Chuck! Made it myself!

There's a sudden FLASH OF EFFECTS around Uncle Chuck that makes Tails jump back and cover his eyes.

TAILS
Uncle Chuck, what's goin' on?

WIDER

As the EFFECTS CLEAR, Tails and Antoine look up to see Uncle Chuck glaring at them with RED GLOWING EYES.

UNCLE CHUCK
(robotic GROWL)

With incredible speed, he grabs them both.

ANTOINE/TAILS
(frightened SCREAMS)

PUSH IN ON UNCLE CHUCK'S GLOWING RED EYES as we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - DAY

Uncle Chuck holds Antoine and Tails off the ground, his red eyes pulsing.

UNCLE CHUCK
(robotic GROWL)

ANTOINE
I-I-I-I-I-I-I-I...

Tails slaps Antoine on the back.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
I...I am very ascare.

OTS UNCLE CHUCK

He quickly bends over, lowering Antoine and Tails OUT OF SHOT. Dust rises from his flurry of activity.

TAILS/ANTOINE (OS)
(panicked YELLS)

Almost instantaneously, he pulls them back up INTO SHOT, trussed with rope. PUSH IN ON ANTOINE.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
Well, that-that-that was not so-o-o too bad.
(looks at rope)
This is nice rope.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - MOMENTS LATER - ON ANTOINE

His hair sticks straight up in the air. CAMERA SPINS and PULLS BACK TO REVEAL that he's hanging upside down from a tree branch, next to Tails.

ANTOINE
Then again...I never like ropes so much.

FROM BEHIND ANTOINE AND TAILS

we hear CRASHING NOISES. In the B.G., Uncle Chuck tears the blades from a windmill. Nearby, another windmill is completely trashed.

SALLY (OS)
Uncle Chuck! No!

UNCLE CHUCK

turns as Sally, Bunnie and Dulcy run up. Chuck zips back to Antoine and Tails, slings them over his back and RUNS O.S. at "robotic" high speed.

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - ELEVATOR - DAY

Uncle Chuck runs into elevator and pushes a button. Sally, Bunnie and Dulcy run INTO SHOT, but the elevator door slams shut just as they reach it.

BUNNIE
Let's beat 'em to the top,
Dulcy.

Dulcy cocks her head, looks at Bunnie with puzzled expression.

DULCY
Whathoo mean?

BUNNIE
Ya'll know...
(flaps arms)
...fly!

DULCY
Oh...shore! Hop on.

WIDER

The girls hop on Dulcy's back. She runs awkwardly, bobbing from side to side, stumbles, recovers, then leaps into the air and soars up and O.S.

EXT. GREAT FOREST - DAY

Uncle Chuck, still carrying his hostages, emerges from the elevator and takes off at a run.

TAILS & ANTOINE
(AD-LIB CRIES FOR HELP)

CAMERA PANS to nearby cliff edge as...

DULCY

swoops clumsily up INTO SHOT, nearly hits a tree, then follows Uncle Chuck into the Great Forest.

UNCLE CHUCK
(robot GROWL)

FOREST PATH

Uncle Chuck, increasing his speed, dodging and weaving through the trees as...

DULCY

pursues at a low altitude, narrowly misses trees, her wings clipping branches, leaves and twigs raining back on Sally and Bunnie.

BUNNIE/SALLY
(tense reactions)

SALLY
Dulcy, this is too dangerous!
Fly above the trees.

Dulcy turns to Sally. She looks wounded.

DULCY
What choo talkin' 'bout
girlfren'? Dis is a piece of...

Blam! She slams into tree, sending Sally and Bunny flying O.S.

SALLY/BUNNY
(screams)

DULCY

hits the ground with a THUD. She's very woozy as...

UNCLE CHUCK

disappears into the Forest.

SALLY AND BUNNIE

run up to Dulcy who is sitting up now, eyes wide and unblinking, a sappy smile on her face. They rush to Dulcy.

BUNNIE
Dulcy! Are you okay?

DULCY
It's hokay, ma, I'm gettin' up!

CUT TO:

INT. ROTOR'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Rotor's bent over, his "Plumber's crack" showing as he roots through a pile of "junk" that towers over his head. Nearby, Sonic tAPS his foot impatiently.

ROTOR
Three-inch pipe, one-inch pipe...now where the heck is that two-inch pipe?

He SCRATCHES his head.

SONIC
C'mon Rote, I'm gettin' old here.

ROTOR

turns, gives Sonic a look.

ROTOR
You could help, you know.

SONIC
Oh, yeah. That.

Sonic zips over to the junk-stack. He pulls stuff from the pile, flinging it away. The pile starts to CREAK ominously.

ROTOR
Easy, Sonic!

WIDER

As the pile AVALANCHES down on them and they disappear from view.

SONIC (OS)
Rote, you need a new filing system.

ROTOR (OS)
No. This works. I found the two-inch pipe.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT FOREST - DAY

Dulcy's on her feet. She still looks a little "goofy". Sally and Bunnie on her back. She staggers forward.

SALLY
Dulcy, sure you're okay?

DULCY
Don't choo worry. I'm fine...

WIDER

She takes a few awkward steps, launches into the air and climbs through the trees.

ABOVE THE TREES

Dulcy emerges, circling upward, but her eyes look unfocused.

DULCY
(sings)
I'm a little teapot...

Sally and Bunnie exchange a look as Dulcy wobbles off after the long-gone Uncle Chuck.

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - BATTLE GROUND - DAY

Uncle Chuck trudges through a junk-filled section of the swamp, carrying Tails and Antoine. Wrecked Stealth-Bots, Hover-Units and broken artillery-emplacements mark the place as a battleground. Gaping shell-holes, seeping slimy water dot the area. PUSH IN ON ANTOINE AND TAILS.

ANTOINE
Sacre bleu, we are dead beats!

TAILS
You mean, dead meat, Ant. Just chill out...
(louder - to Chuck)
...Sonic'll save us!

UNCLE CHUCK

stops, eyes glowing red. He turns.

UNCLE CHUCK (MECHANICAL VOICE)
Hedgehog...enemy...priority one
capture by order of Robotnik.

WIDER

He moves to edge of a large hole, plops his prisoners down into the slime, then grabs a palm frond from a brush-pile and lays it across the hole. He picks up a long branch.

TAILS
That dumb trap won't stop Sonic!
Only mega-muck can stop Sonic!

UNCLE CHUCK

stops, his eyes pulsate.

UNCLE CHUCK
Mega-muck. One part petroleum,
one part quicksand, one part
clay-mud...

WIDER

He thrusts the branch deep into the ground. Black oil bubbles up around the stick. He walks OUT OF SHOT. PUSH IN ON ANTOINE AND TAILS.

TAILS
Man, guess I messed up big-time.

ANTOINE
Oui. Leettle children should be
seen and not absurd.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - RING GROTTO - DAY

Sonic paces as Sally watches the pond.

SONIC
I gotta get juicin'. He could
be in Robotropolis by now.

SONIC

stops, checks his watch, TAPS his foot and DRUMS his fingers simultaneously.

SALLY
Sonic, will you relax?

SONIC
Relax? How can I relax? My sneaks are just itchin' to hit the road.

THE WATER

GLOWS. Sonic zips to Sally's side as a Power Ring surfaces and she snares it, then pops it into his backpack.

SONIC
C'mon, Sal. Let's juice!

SALLY
You'll get there faster without me. As soon as Dulcy's okay, we'll catch up.

SONIC
Cool. Uh, Sal, I'm...sorry about...

Sally hugs him.

SALLY
I know. But right now, we need a hero and you're it. Good luck, Sonic.

They tap fists and thumbs up. Sonic REVS while Sally grabs onto a tree, then he BLASTS OFF, his turbulence lifts her off her feet and bends the trees back as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - DAY

VARIOUS ANGLES as Sonic blasts through the Great Swamp in a criss-cross pattern, sending up rooster-tails of water.

SONIC

SKIDS INTO SHOT and looks at the ground.

HIS POV

of UNCLE CHUCK'S FOOTPRINTS, water oozing into them. The prints lead deeper into the dark swamp.

SONIC

REVS and blows outta there, sending up a HUGE ROOSTER TAIL of mud

and STEAM as he ROARS into the swamp.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - BATTLE GROUND - LATE AFTERNOON

Uncle Chuck exits one of the trashed Hover-Units, carrying a LARGE ENGINE PART. He crosses to a second, less-trashed vehicle and snaps the part into place, then pushes a button. SPUTTERING ENGINE ROAR. Pushes button again and the engine STOPS. Uncle Chuck hears Sonic's APPROACHING WHOOSH and ducks behind the Hover-Unit.

LONG ON SONIC

As he approaches like a shot. TILT DOWN TO REVEAL Antoine and Tails, still trussed, sitting in a huge POOL OF MEGA-MUCK.

TAILS
Here comes Sonic!

OTS TAILS AND ANTOINE

Sonic's approaching fast.

TAILS/ANTOINE (OS)
(yells)
Sonic! Stop!/Do not proceed!
Halt-a-vous!

SONIC

hits the Mega-muck and SKIDS to teeth-jarring stop next to Tails and Antoine, his body stretching out, before snapping back into place.

TAILS
Sonic! It's a trap!

Sonic looks around as Uncle Chuck ENTERS with a...

UNCLE CHUCK
(menancing GROWL)

SONIC
Don't do it, Uncle Chuck! Let 'em go!

ANTOINE
(eager nodding)
Oui. Oui. This is good advice from the Hedgehog.

Uncle Chuck grabs Tails and Antoine and carries them O.S. Sonic struggles, but can't move.

SONIC
(struggling sounds)
Uncle Chuck! Don't!

We hear the Hover-Unit's SPUTTERING ENGINE START.

THE HOVER-UNIT

lifts off SPUTTERING and flies away as we hear...

TAILS (OS)
(diminishing in distance)
Sonic!!!

SONIC

Struggles and struggles to free himself, but can't.

TAILS (OS) (CONT'D)
(anguished yell)
Noooooooo!

TAILS' cry ECHOES as we TILT UP TO LATE AFTERNOON SKY.

WIPE TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - SKY - SUNSET

MATCH PREVIOUS SHOT, then TILT DOWN to Sonic from HIGH, MOVING SHOT, still stuck in Mega-muck as we hear...

BUNNIE (OS)
There he is!

DULCY

swoops down and O.S., Sally and Bunnie on her back. Both girls close their eyes.

WIDE

Dulcy touches down with her back legs and it looks like she's finally going to make a great landing, but as she lowers her front legs, she trips, lands on her chin and hydroplanes through the muck right INTO CAMERA.

SONIC

watches as Dulcy SKIDS to a stop right beside him. She smiles.

DULCY
Is that a pinpoint landing or what?

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT SWAMP - MOMENTS LATER

Dulcy hovers above the Mega-Muck and lowers a rope tied to her tail.

DULCY
Grab on, Sonic.

Sonic grabs it.

SONIC
Go! Go!

DULCY

strains as she FLAPS her wings mightily.

DULCY
(straining)
Come on! Come on!

WIDER

Sonic is giving it all he can from his end as well.

SONIC
(straining)
Harder! Harder!

POP! He explodes out of the muck and lands gracefully beside...

SALLY AND BUNNIE

standing nearby.

SONIC
Thanks for the help. I've gotta jam!

Sonic grabs a Power Ring from his backpack. He GLOWS, revs then literally EXPLODES WITH SPEED, leaving a deep furrow as he almost instantly disappears in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - NEAR HANGAR - NIGHT

The SPUTTERING Hover-Unit ENTERS SHOT and THUNKS heavily to ground. Hatch HISSES open and Uncle Chuck emerges, Tails and Antoine slung over his shoulder.

TAILS
(crying)
Please, Uncle Chuck! I don't want wanna be a Robot!

UNCLE CHUCK

falters and his GLOWING eyes dim momentarily. PULL OUT as Sonic steps from the shadows.

SONIC
Uncle Chuck, I know you can hear me. Fight it, Uncle Chuck. Fight it.

Chuck turns to Sonic and the GLOW in his eyes flickers. TINY ELECTRIC SPARKS shoot across his face.

UNCLE CHUCK (PARTIAL-ROBOTIC VOICE)
I'm...I'm...gotta break...gotta break....fighting..

SONIC
Yeah. That's it, Uncle Chuck. Fight it.

We hear DESCENDING ROBOTIC ELECTRICAL SOUNDS and the GLOW FADES from his eyes. He straightens.

UNCLE CHUCK (NORMAL VOICE)
It worked!

He quickly unties Antoine and Tails.

TAILS
Sonic! I knew you'd save us!

Tails high-fives Sonic.

SONIC
No prob, Big Guy. Antoine, you and Tails wait at the rendezvous point. We'll meet you there.

ANTOINE
And leave you with all the danger?
(considers, nods)
I can be living with that.

Antoine and Tails rush OUT OF SHOT. PUSH IN as Sonic turns back to Uncle Chuck.

SONIC
Yo, Unk. You okay?

UNCLE CHUCK
I'm back, Sonny. All the way back.

WIDER - TO INCLUDE HANGAR DOORS

Two HOVERING SWAT-BOTS emerge, start toward Sonic and Uncle Chuck.

SONIC
Let's juice, Unc. Here comes a headache.

Chuck doesn't move as he stares at the oncoming Swat-Bots, in deep thought.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Uncle Chuck. Let's bail.

Chuck looks at Sonic.

UNCLE CHUCK
I can help more if I'm here, Sonny-boy.

SONIC
Say what?

UNCLE CHUCK
Robotnik won't know I'm robotisized.

SONIC
You mean you'll be like a spy?

UNCLE CHUCK
That's it. Now play along.

SONIC
But, Uncle Chuck...

Suddenly, Uncle Chuck grabs Sonic.

UNCLE CHUCK (MECHANICAL VOICE)
(yells)
Intruder! Hedgehog intruder!
(whispers - normal voice)
Act like we're struggling.

SONIC
Bein' a spy is too dangerous.

UNCLE CHUCK
Sonic...trust me on this.

Sonic looks at his Uncle, then slowly shakes his head.

SONIC
(yells)
Lemme go! Lemme go!

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

pop up from the ground and walls of Robotnik's HQ. ALARMS SOUND. The approaching Swat-Bots "kick it" and zoom toward Sonic and Uncle Chuck.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - WAR ROOM - NIGHT

Every monitor shows Sonic and Uncle Chuck struggling. Robotnik rushes INTO SHOT, checks the monitors.

ROBOTNIK
Well, well, this nearly makes me smile.

WIDER

Robotnik rushes to VIRTUAL REALITY CONSOLE CHAIR. The HOOD lowers. Snively stands nearby.

ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
Care to have a little race now, Hedgehog?

SNIVELY
(mumbles to self)
He's already captured, you dolt.

ROBOTNIK
What's that, Snively?

SNIVELY
I said, I hope he doesn't bolt...sir.

Robotnik flips a switch on the console.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROBOTNIK'S HQ - NIGHT

Swat-Bots surround Sonic, still held in Uncle Chuck's grip. Suddenly, HUGE CAMERA SHAKE as the NEW IMPROVED SHRIEK-BOT'S ENGINES ROAR TO LIFE.

CLOSER ON SONIC - HANGAR DOOR IN B.G.

CAMERA SHAKE CONTINUES. Sonic and Uncle Chuck are knocked to the ground, the Swat-Bots hovering above them.

UNCLE CHUCK

winks at Sonic and releases him.

UNCLE CHUCK
(whispers)
Better juice, Sonny-Boy.

Sonic winks back, jumps up, starts to REV when the Shriek-Bot suddenly LAUNCHES LOUDLY from the hangar door, like a bullet from a gun. Sonic ducks as it passes directly overhead, just missing him.

SONIC
Whoa! Some serious thrust!

Sonic REVS UP, BLASTS down a side street and out of sight.

ON SONIC - FOLLOWING

He's really moving. He glances skyward.

SONIC
Where is that sucker?

He looks back over his shoulder and REACTS.

SONIC'S POV

As the Shriek-Bot rockets toward CAMERA forcing...

SONIC

to zip to one side and avoid being trashed by the low-flying craft. In a heartbeat, it's gone. Sonic SKIDS to a stop.

SONIC (CONT'D)
He's got Hedgehog speed...

He looks O.S., grins.

SONIC'S POV

of a PARTIALLY-DEMOLISHED BUILDING in the distance. A VERTICAL CRACK separates the two halves.

SONIC (OS) (CONT'D)
But not Hedgehog brains.

SONIC

revs up, takes off toward the building. A BEAT, then the Shriek-Bot ENTERS SHOT, hot on his tail.

SHRIEK-BOT'S POV

Sonic looks back as POV CLOSES fast, then he pours it on. BIG FLAME TRAIL as he barely keeps ahead of the Shriek-Bot.

INSIDE SHRIEK-BOT - MOVING

Robotnik's transparent image sneers. Through the cockpit windows we see we're closing on Sonic.

ROBOTNIK (ELECTRONICALLY-ENHANCED)
Having fun yet, Rodent?
(yells command)
Afterburners!

FROM BEHIND SHRIEK-BOT - MOVING

The AFTERBURNERS FIRE, FILLING SHOT.

SONIC

looks back as the Shriek-Bot closes the distance until it's nudging his butt.

SONIC
Yep. Fast....

ON BUILDING - FROM SIDE

Sonic zooms through the narrow crack in the building, the Shriek-Bot follows.

INSIDE SHRIEK-BOT

Robotnik REACTS, but too lat as...

THE SHRIEK-BOT

SLAMS into the crack, ripping off its engines. The fuselage shoots through like a rocket. Sonic ducks and watches it cartwheel end-over-end and smash into another building.

SAIL O.S. SCENE - SHAKING

CRASH makes Sonic wince. He shakes his head.

SONIC (CONT'D)
...but seriously not smart.

Sonic REVS up and streaks down the street, disappearing in the distance as we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - DAY

Sally, Bunnie and Dulcy pick through the remains of the De-Robotisizer, salvaging parts.

DULCY
Boy-o-boy, what a mess.

SALLY
It'll take years to put this together again.

BUNNIE
Then, we'd better get started, Sugah, 'cause I liked havin' my cute little ol' bod even for a minute.

Sonic trudges sadly past them, head down, shoulders drooping. Beside him is Tails, matching his sorrowful gait. Sally, Bunnie and Dulcy watch them, then exchange a look.

CUT TO:

EXT. RING GROTTO - DAY

Sonic sits slumped on a log facing the RING POOL, back to CAMERA, head bowed. Tails beside him, same posture. Sally ENTERS, sits beside Sonic. A long silence, then...

SONIC
If I woulda listened to you, Sal, everything would be cool. I was a total bughead.

TAILS
But Uncle Chuck's gonna be a spy for us. That's cool, right, Sonic?

SONIC
Yeah, except he has to live in bogus city. I shoulda waited.

Sally puts her arm around his shoulder and nods.

SALLY
Yeah. We all know that, Sonic.

SONIC

looks hurt. Sally grins at him.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Little joke there.

He grins back.

SONIC
Little is right.

SALLY
We came closer than ever, Sonic...

SONIC
Yeah. Seriously close. Next time we'll do it.
(flashes "thumbs up")
Serious.

SALLY & TAILS
(also flash "thumbs up")
Serious.

FADE OUT.

THE END